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North West Anglia  
NHS Foundation Trust

## Patient Information

### CROS Hearing Aids (Assessment)



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If you require this leaflet in LARGE PRINT, please ask your audiologist, a member of reception, or contact the department

#### Document History

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[www.hinchingsbrooke.nhs.uk/page/our-services/audiology](http://www.hinchingsbrooke.nhs.uk/page/our-services/audiology)

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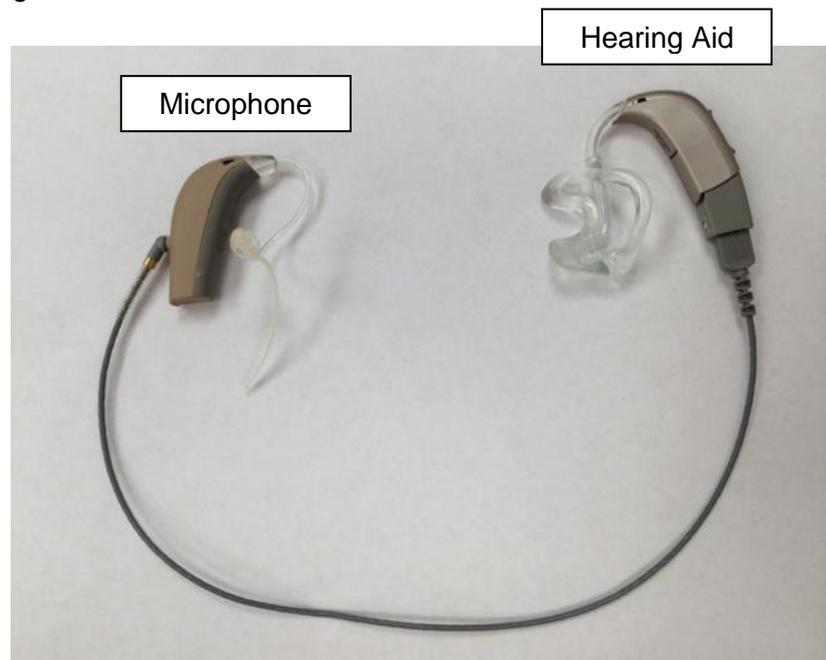
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## 1. What is a CROS hearing aid?

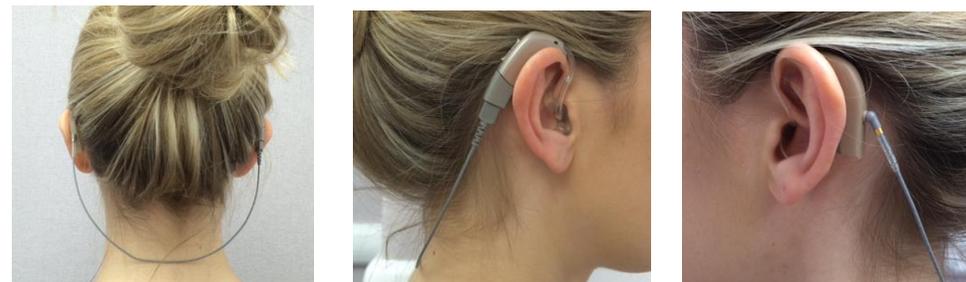
A CROS hearing aid is a special hearing aid used for people who have hearing that is much better in one ear than the other. A conventional hearing aid is fitted in the better ear and will have been prescribed specifically for the hearing loss in that ear. In the poorer ear a microphone-only aid is fitted. Its purpose is to pick up the sounds that may otherwise be missed on the side of the poorer ear. The two aids are connected by a cable and worn around the back of your neck. The sounds picked up on the poorer hearing side are processed by the conventional aid on the better hearing side.



You may be suitable for a CROS hearing aid if you have no hearing at all in one ear, if you have very poor hearing in one ear, or if you have problems with one ear such as distortions, infections or previous surgery.

## 2. How do I wear the CROS aid?

The hearing aid (likely to be silver in colour) is worn in your better ear. This may have a thin tube connecting it to your ear, or it may have a custom earmould.



## 3. What should I expect from the CROS aid?

Some people will get on very well with their CROS aid, whereas other people may experience limited benefit; everyone is different. If you are keen, it is usually worth trying a device for a few weeks to see if you like it. Your audiologist will recommend you wear the CROS aid as much as possible during your trial period and to test it out in as many different listening situations as you can. This will help you decide whether it is giving you benefit.

The CROS aid aims to help you to hear more easily the things that happen on the side of the worse hearing ear. You may still need to ensure you are facing the speaker in order to follow exactly what they are saying, but your CROS aid will help you to know that someone is speaking to you.

Your CROS aid should help you to feel that sound is more balanced between the ears and will help to reduce the feeling that you have a 'good side' and a 'bad side'.

It may still be very difficult to find where a sound is coming from (localisation) even with your CROS aid in place.

You will also probably still find it difficult to understand speech in lots of background noise. Most people with hearing aids report that this is their most difficult listening environment.